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Disability Commission Minutes 08/17/05

ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 17, 2005

Members Present: Barbara Cutler, Susan James, Barbara Jones, Joe Giurleo,
 Lin Baker, and Tom Boudreau. Staff: Jack Jones

Members Absent: Kevin O'Brien, Maureen St. Hilaire, Louis Krodel

Others Present: Kerrie Fallon

Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2005:

Barbara J. made a motion seconded by Joe to approve the Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2005. SO VOTED

Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2005:

Barbara C. requested a correction in the spelling of MiCASSA. Barbara C. also requested that the meeting minutes state that the CDBG allocation for curb cut work was the result of the Commission's persistence in obtaining funding. Barbara J. made a motion to approve the minutes with the requested changes Tom seconded this motion. SO VOTED

Peirce Elementary School Ramp:

Jack said that he would update the Commission on the status of the ramp at the September Meeting. Jack also explained to the Commission the reason why the Architectural Access Board decided to rescind their original decision on granting a variance on the Peirce School Ramp. Jack said that the A.A.B. after reviewing the original decision did decide to grant a variance for the circular portion of the ramp if the slope was reconstructed to comply with A.A.B. regulations.

Massachusetts Avenue Curb Ramp Project:

Jack said that \$42,387 has been expended on curb ramp work along Mass. Ave. during calendar year 2005. Jack said that \$18,275 of allocated funding remains to be expended during FY 2006. Barbara C. requested a print out of the allocations and expenditures for curb ramp over the past few years. Jack said that he would provide this print out at the September meeting.

Town Day:

Jack said that Town Day is scheduled for September 17, 2005 with a rain date if needed scheduled for September 24, 2005. Jack said that rubber jar openers would be purchased for a promotional item. Barbara C. said that her son would provide a canopy for the Disability Commission Booth. Members of the Commission volunteered to stuff the bags and staff the booth for Town Day. Barbara C. would request from the Town Day Committee that the Commission's booth be located near Town Hall for access to HP restroom and that adequate Handicapped Parking be made available for Town Day.

Old/New Business:

Jack said that the Town plans to construct a sidewalk on Florence Avenue across from the Dallin School to improve pedestrian safety at the School. Barbara C. wanted assurance that all new sidewalks at the Dallin School would have curb cuts. Jack distributed the Transportation Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding curb cuts at the Dallin School and said that Stephan Chaires, Architect at DRA, will be at a future Commission Meeting to talk with the Commission about the proposed curb cuts and progress in the construction of the Dallin School.

Barbara C. said that Lt. McHugh had requested assistance in determining if a handicapped resident should be allowed to place a handicapped parking space across the street from his home. Parking in front of this residents home is not allowed because of the narrow width of the street, however the resident does have a driveway which he allows his tenants to use. The decision was not to recommend that handicapped parking be provided on the opposite side of the street and that this handicapped resident should use his own driveway.

Training:

Training will be held in Arlington on September 29 providing instruction on the regulations on sidewalk and curb cut construction and renovation. Town Manager will be there to welcome employees from Arlington and surrounding towns. The Commission would like signage for the training as part of community education about disabilities.

Legislative Update:

Barbara C. said that the State of Massachusetts is trying to increase the salaries for direct care staff. Barbara C. said that the U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a resolution supporting visit ability rights, which require the use of universal design Barbara C. said that the President is trying to reduce Medicaid benefits.

Adjournment:

Barbara J. made a motion to adjourn seconded by Lin.